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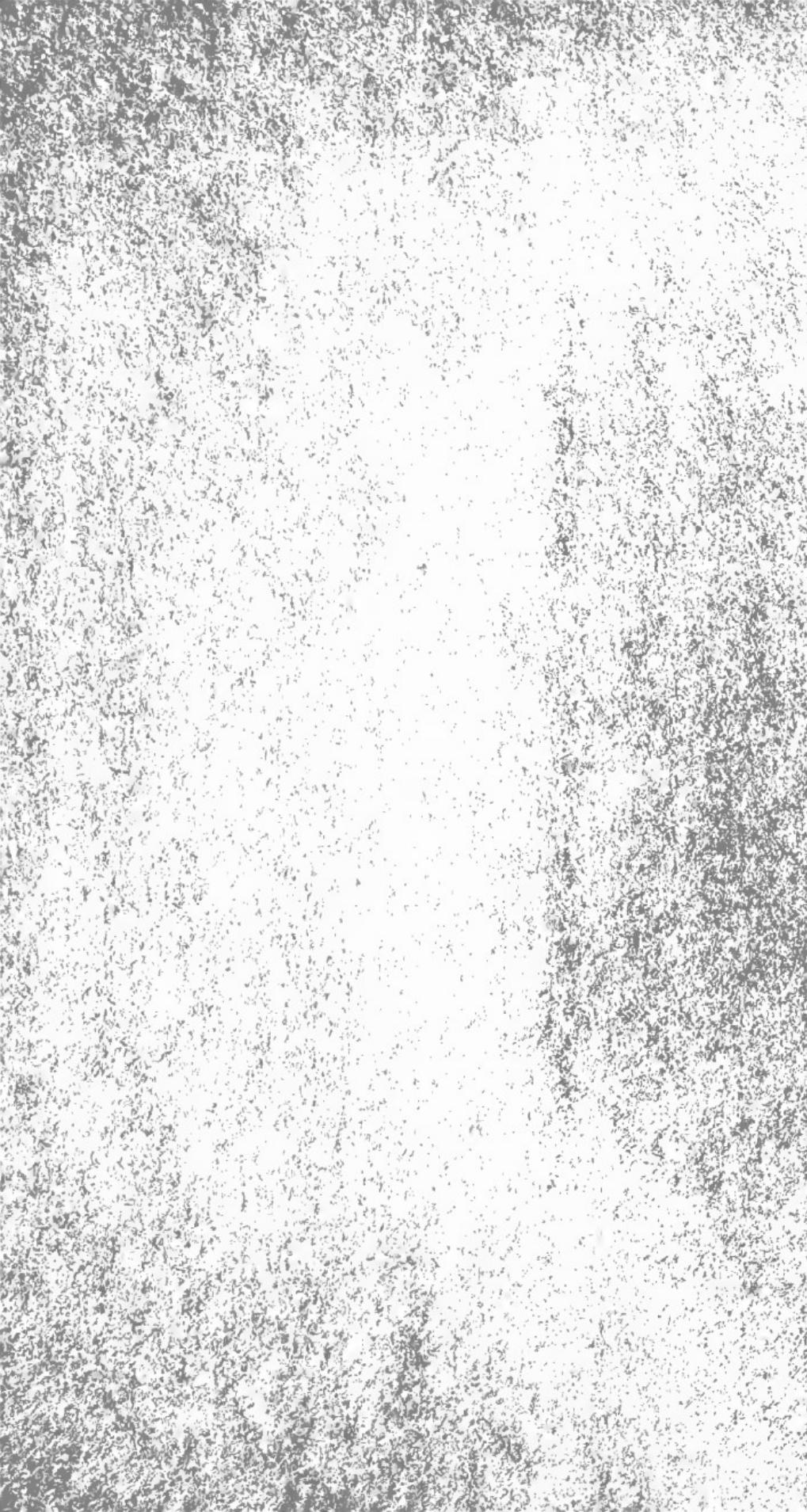
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LETTER

To the Honourable

Edward Vernon Esq;

Vice-Admiral of the *Red*, &c.

FROM

JOHN CATHCART,

Director of the HOSPITAL in the late
Expedition to the *West-Indies*,

Under the Command of the Honourable

General WENTWORTH:

CONCERNING

Some Gross MISREPRESENTATIONS in a
Pamphlet, lately Published, and Intitled,
ORIGINAL PAPERS relating to the Expedition
to the Island of Cuba.

*Cujusvis est errare, nullius nisi insipientis in
errore perseverare.* CIC.

LONDON:

Printed for M. COOPER, at the Globe in Pater-Noster-Row.
M.DCC.XLIV.

1744

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A

LETTER

TO THE

Honourable EDWARD VERNON, Esq;
Vice-Admiral of the *Red, &c.*

To the Hon. EDWARD VERNON Esq; &c.

SIR,

London, 16 May, 1744.

I HAVE had your original Letters of the 17 and 19 August, 1741, to General Wentworth, compared with the Copies of said Letters, published about two Months ago, in a Pamphlet, intitled, *Original Papers relating to the Expedition to the Island of Cuba*; and they were found to agree. In these Letters, you have grossly abused, and greatly injured me, by representing my Conduct to that Gentleman in a very false and detestable Light; the severe Effects of which I have most sensibly felt, in many Instances, since they were wrote: And now, by their being published, I am exposed to all the World, in plain terms, as a Robber, a Lyar, and a Deceiver.

I have tried all ways, and used all means, I could think of, to induce you, first to satisfy

yourself, from undoubted Evidence and Proofs, that what you have accused me of is false ; and then to acknowledge, as every just Man ought to do, that you have injured me without any Cause : But all my Endeavours to obtain this, have hitherto had no Effect. I shall now go yet farther, (which I propose shall be my last Effort, to persuade you to end this Affair in a private way;) and that is, first, to lay before you what has already past betwixt us, on this Subject ; and then the Proofs and Vouchers that I have to adduce, to justify my own Conduct, and invalidate your ill-founded Accusations. And if this cannot prevail with you to comply with my Request, to do me the reasonable Justice I require, I shall publish the whole of this Affair, from first to last, which I believe all Mankind will think right, as it is in Vindication of my own Character ; and leave it to them to judge of your Injustice and of my Innocence.

Soon after the above Pamphlet appeared, I wrote you the following Letter.

To the Hon. EDWARD VERNON Esq;

SIR,

Forrest's Coffee-House, 29 Mar. 1744.

I AM conscious to myself, that, when, in the *West-Indies*, Director of the Hospital for the Land-Forces, I never gave you any trouble but what the Nature of my Office necessarily required ; and I did not in the least expect, that I should have been forced to give you any at home. But if it appears, that, by your means, my Character and Reputation lie now bleeding and unjustly exposed to all the World ; and that you have at present taken from me the most valuable thing a Man can possess, and what has supported me with Reputation, now near these

40 Years past, *My good Name* ; I say, if these Facts plainly appear, it will plead my Excuse for troubling you with this.

When I first waited on General *Wentworth* at *Cuba*, 12 October 1741, he received me in the coldest Manner before several Officers of the first Rank in the Army ; told me, that I had disobeyed his Orders in not coming in the *Strumbolo* Fireship ; that he was well informed, that my staying after her in *Jamaica* was to mind my own private Affairs in Trade ; and that I had represented to him the Detention of the Hospital Ship *Lynn* at *Jamaica* in a false Light, because she had not been detained there by any Officer of the Admiral, or by any Order from him, as I had alledged. I desired he would be pleased to appoint a Court Martial, to enquire into the Truth of these Accusations, being then ready to disprove them all, and I hoped he would name his false Informer. He said, he would order a Court as soon as it was convenient for him, and that he would let me know his Informer when he thought fit. After many Applications to the General for this Court, it was at last appointed under the Name of a Court of Enquiry, consisting of General and Field Officers, and held four Months thereafter, viz: on the 16 February following to enquire into the above Facts, and my Conduct in *Jamaica* from 1st July to 29th September preceeding. By the Report of this Court, dated 19th February, I was honourably acquitted ; and the Day following, when I waited on General *Wentworth* to get an authentic Copy of the Report, he was pleased to say to me, in presence of 8 or 10 Field Officers then with him, " Sir, I have look'd over the " Proceedings of the Court, and am well pleased " you are acquitted of what I charged you with :

" And

" And as I see you insist strongly in your Defence upon my letting you know my Information, I now tell you, before these Gentlemen, that it was Admiral *Vernon*; and I very well remember, when he and I agreed to send the *Strumbolo* for you and the Surgeons, he told me, you need not expect Mr. *Cathcart* will come until he hath finished his private Affairs; for I know he is delivering a great Quantity of Brandy, that he sold to the Agents for the Fleet." My Reply to the General was, Sir, had you been pleased to have told me this when I first waited on you at *Cuba*, my Reputation had not suffered so much, both in the Army and the Fleet, as it has done for these four Months past; for then I was prepared to make the same Defence I have now made, and to satisfy you, that all the Brandy I ever sold the Agents for the Use of the Fleet, was delivered and paid for, before you and the Admiral left *Jamaica*. But as I am now fully acquitted by the Report of the Court, I shall let the Affair remain as it is, because it is probable, you have misunderstood the Admiral, who was conscious to himself that he certified the Bills of Exchange for the Payment of said Brandy before he left *Jamaica*.

I continued, Sir, in the same Opinion with regard to you ever since, till lately that a Pamphlet appeared, intitled, *Original Papers relating to the Expedition to the Island of Cuba*, which so much surprized me, that I know not yet what to think, or how to account for your Conduct towards me, who had never done you the smallest Injury. For therein it appears, that you have represented my Conduct in such a Light, formerly to my General, and now to all the

the World, that you seem determined to ruin me in the Opinion of all good Men. For in your Letter to him, of the 17th of *August*, 1741, as per said Pamphlet, page 68, you bring this heavy Charge against me; viz. " I take Mr. " Catcart's Solicitousness abouther [that is, to " have the Hospital Ship *Lynn* brought to *Cuba*] " to be in regard to other Merchandise on " Board [Brandy] that might not be so service- " able to the Army; well knowing he has made " use of his Majesty's Transports for his private " Service, by my having signed Bills of Ex- " change for near 7000*l.* for French Brandies by " him sold to the Agent Victuallers for the " Fleet, and *delivered from the Transports.*" This Charge, if true, must prove me the worst of Men; for by it I am represented as a vile Robber of the Publick of no less than the Freight of 220 Tons of the King's Transports for above twelve Months, which comes to more than 3000*l.* Sterling. And to whom is this Representation made? To my Commander in Chief, and in my Absence, with this cruel Insinuation, that I wanted the Hosptial Ship at *Cuba* chiefly, that I might sell Brandy I had in her to the Army! Now, Sir, if I prove to your Satisfaction, 1st, That the 7000*l.* worth of Brandy, which I sold to the Agents for the use of the Fleet, were not in whole, or in any part, delivered from or out of the Transports, or had ever been in any Transports, Store Ships, or any other Vessel or Vessels in the Pay of the Government: 2dly, That there never was one Drop of Brandy on Board the *Lynn* Hospital Ship, either before or when she went to *Cuba*, except two small Casks bought at *Portsmouth*, for the use of the Hospital before our Departure from *England*: I say, when these two Articles

are

are clearly proved, which I undertake to do ; and when you are fully informed of what I have suffered, and am still like to suffer, from these and the following unjust Representations and Insinuations, what an Agony of Mind must you, or any good Man be in, until you have avenged yourself of your vile Informers, and repaired the Injury you have done to my Reputation ?

In your Letter of the 29 July, 1741, to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, you say, as per said Pamphlet, page 40, " Mr. Cathcart, Director of the Hospital told Capt. Durell, he stayed behind to purchase Necessaries for the Hospital, which he would soon be following him with. " And in your Letter to General Wentworth of the 19 of August following you say, " as per said Pamphlet, page 70, I received yours of the 18th last Night, by which I find Mr. Cathcart does not represent things truly to you : You know, Sir, when I found the Army's Medicines and Surgeons were left behind, I offered you a Ship [the *Strumbolo* Capt. Durell] to fetch them with Expedition to you ; well knowing the *Lynn* Hospital Ship to be a heavy Ship that could not be depended upon to get here in time ; and I was not therefore for having their coming depend on such a Contingency, as getting a heavy leewardly Ship up to windward. But I believe, as we are stationed, and my Cruizers posted, Mr. Cathcart and his *Lynn* too [she was not mine, nor had I the least Concern in her] might have come, as to any Danger from an Enemy, with as much safety as any Man can walk from the Royal-Exchange to Westminster, and no Officer of mine would have given him [or

" [or her] any Impediment, if he could have Men
" to sail her, as they are chartered to do."

As to what you write his Grace, I am apt to think, you have misunderstood Capt. Durell, who well knew that the Reason of my staying behind, was not *the want of Necessaries for the Hospital*, but Capt. Davers's not permitting the Hospital Ship to sail with the *Strumbolo*. And this Fact you was probably informed of by Capt. Davers's Letter, of the 15th of July, brought you by said Capt. Durell.

General Wentworth had great reason to be displeased with me, after having been told, by a Person of your high Rank and Station in our Expedition, in plain terms, that I had misrepresented Facts to him; and that no Officer of yours would impede the Hospital Ship from coming to join the Army at *Cuba*. I shall, Sir, make it evidently clear to you, and to all the World, that every Particular I represented to the General, relating to the Detension of the Hospital Ship *Lynn* at *Jamaica*, was put in a true, plain, and undesigning Light; and that in doing of this, I had nothing in view but the Good of his Majesty's Service: particularly that Capt. Davers, after considering my two Memorials of the 2d and 6th July, 1741, for a whole Week, did, on the 13th of that Month, send on Board the Hospital Ship *Lynn*, then at *Port Royal*, eight Seamen, to enable her to sail with the *York* Man of War the next day for *Cuba*. We were prepared, and would have sailed, had not the Breeze detained both the *York* and us on the 14th and 15th, when the *Strumbolo*, with your Letters to Mr. Davers, arrived; upon which he immediately took away the eight Seamen, and wrote me, that the Hospital Ship *Lynn* was,

by your positive Order, to remain in Port, and not to stir. He kept her under this Embargo from 15 July to 28 August; notwithstanding the repeated Requests of General Guise, then Commander in Chief at Jamaica, and myself, to let her depart; and then he told me, he had received a Letter from you, in which you had given him leave to let her go; but added, that he would not assist her with any Men. And he kept his word strictly; for tho' he sent down 50 Seamen, to help to man the other Transports that sailed with us, he would not give one to the *Lynn* Hospital Ship; tho' General Guise wrote him pressingly upon this Subject, and gave some weighty Reasons to induce him to do it.

If all these Matters be proved to your Satisfaction, as I have undertaken to do, I am sure you will be ready and desirous to represent me in a quite different Light to the World, than I am represented in the above-cited Pamphlet. And as your time may be taken up about Matters of great Consequence, I humbly propose, that you would desire some of your Friends to examin narrowly into the truth of what I have advanced in this Letter, and to report as they find it. I beg leave to name some, whom I believe you esteem, and think fit Persons to oblige both you and me in this Enquiry, viz. Capt. ***, Capt. ***, Mr. ***, Mr. ****, Mr. *, and Mr. ***. They or any three of them, or any three Gentlemen, that belonged to either the Fleet or Army during the time of our Expedition, that you please to name, shall be most acceptable to me.

As the clearing up of this Affair is of the utmost Consequence to me at present, and must do me a real Prejudice, if it stands much longer as it does; I beg you will not treat it with Indif-

Indifference or Delay. And I hope, when you have considered what I have now wrote, you will be pleased to let me know by a short Line directed to me at this Place, if what I have proposed in the preceding Paragraph will be agreeable to you. I am, &c.

JOHN CATHCART,

To this Letter you was not pleased to return any Answer; and therefore, after waiting near a Month, I wrote you the following one, *viz.*

To the Honourable EDWARD VERNON Esq;

SIR, *Forrest's Coffee-House, Wednesday 25 April 1744.*

I HAVE waited these four Weeks past with very great Impatience, always expecting you would have favoured me with an Answer to my Letter of the 28 of last Month. But your delaying it so long, gives me good Reason to apprehend, that you treat what I wrote you with Indifference; that you reject the reasonable Proposal I made you in my said Letter; and that you will be at no pains to repair the great Injury you have done my Reputation, by exposing me on the Credit of false Information, as a Villain, and a Lyar to all the World.

If this is your determined Resolution, it will force me, much against my Inclination, to publish an ample Refutation of all the Facts, &c. you have charged me with, and alledged against me; in doing of which, many authentic Letters, Memorials, Affidavits and Abstracts must appear, which may give some Persons pleasure; for the best of Men, you know, in a publick Station, as you have been, are not without their Enemies. But I assure you, it will give me in

particular, and many of your Well-wishers, a most sensible Pain. Let me therefore intreat you, in order to end this Affair amicably, to chuse the Method I proposed to you in my former Letter.

I have communicated my Intentions only to Mr. ***, your Fellow-Member in the House of Commons, who tells me, that he has spoke to Mr. *** upon the Subject. Tho' I have not the Honour to know the last; yet, if you incline to it, I shall leave it entirely to them, to determine what you and I ought to do in it.

If I am not so happy as to be favoured with your Answer by Tuesday next, the 1st of May; I shall take it for granted, that I am not to have any from you. But I hope it will prove otherwise; and am,

With great Respect, &c.

JOHN CATHCART.

On the 30th of last Month, Sir, I received at Forrest's Coffee-House, an anonymous Letter, dated two Days before, and directed to me, from Chelmsford; which I conjecture came from you, as you was then at that Place on your way to Ipswich, as I have been since told: which is as follows;

To Mr. John Cathecart, at Forrest's Coffee-House.

SIR,

Chelmsford, 28 April 1744.

W^He never publick Enquiries [are made] which for the publick Good are very much wanted, and which publick Calamities may soon render necessary, tho' they are so very much out of the Mode at present, it will appear that the Publick was burthened with the Ex-

pence

pence of the *Lynn* Hospital Ship much longer than was necessary, and with Numbers of Transport Ships.

If the great Quantity of Brandy sold by you to the Fleet, came out of other Ships than the Transports, you had great good Fortune in its not becoming a Prey to the Governour of *Jamaica*, as the Property of the Crown that came out in the said Fleet did, tho' it was recommended to his Protection by an Order of Council, founded upon the Opinion of the Attorney-General for the Legality of it, which was what you had not to alledge in your favour.

Had a personal Application been judged more decent than an epistolary one, it is apprehended, you would have been always sure of a licit Reception and a candid Answer.

To this Letter I returned the following Answer.

To the Honourable EDWARD VERNON Esq;

SIR, *Forrest's Coffee-House, 1st May, 1744.*

Yesteray I received an anonymous Letter, dated 28 April, from Chelmsford, which, I presume, from its Contents, came from you.

If the *Lynn* Hospital Ship, or any other, was kept longer in Pay than was necessary, surely that Fault ought not to be imputed to me, because the preventing of it was not in my power.

The Brandies I sold at *Jamaica*, for the Use of the Fleet, were all in one Ship, and so guarded by proper Clearances, and such Dispositions were made, that no Officer, or Magistrate abroad, or at home, could either seize or condemn them legally.

My

My hearing you was ill of the Gout, when I first wrote you, made me think, that writing would be less troublesome than waiting on you in Person; but now, as I hear you are better, if you will be pleased to indulge me with seeing you for the space of half an Hour, at any time you think proper to fix, I now venture to assure you, that in that time I shall convince you fully, that you have been grossly imposed upon as to my Conduct in the Expedition. And if you please, Mr. *** of Jamaica, who did me the Honour to introduce me first to your Acquaintance, and who has a sincere Esteem for us both, will come with me. I hope for a favourable Answer; and am, *With great Respect, &c.*

JOHN CATHCART.

I shall now, Sir, lay before you the Proofs and Vouchers, which I can adduce to justify my own Conduct, and invalidate your groundless Accusations.

The first Accusation you bring against me in your said Letter to General *Wentworth*, of the 17 August, 1741, is, "That you well knew I made use of his Majesty's Transports for my own private Service; and that I had delivered from, or out of them, near 7000 £. worth of Brandy, which I sold to the Agent Victuallers for the Fleet." Allow me, Sir, to observe, that this Assertion is very positive; for you do not say, that you was told or informed, that this Fact stood so; but that you knew it well, or was certain of the Truth of it. Now I have undertaken, in my first Letter to you, of the 29th of March last, as above, to prove that what you have so positively asserted is absolutely false; viz. That the 7000 £. worth of Brandy,

which I sold to the Agents, for the Use of the Fleet, was not in whole, or in any part, delivered from or out of the Transports, or had ever been in any Transports, Storeships, or other Vessel or Vessels, in the Pay of the Government: And the Proof I bring for this is, Mr. Campbell's Affidavit, as follows:

David Campbell, Commissary of Stores of War and Provisions in the late Expedition to the West-Indies, under the Command of the Honourable General Wentworth, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, saith, That he, this Deponent, knoweth, and doth very well remember, that being in *Jamaica* in the Month of *June*, 1741, and having a Concern with some Merchants in *London*, and *John Cathcart*, then Director of the Hospital in the said Expedition, in a Cargo of Brandy then on board the Ship *Brothers*, *Alexander Montgomery* Master, lying in *Port-Royal Harbour*; he and the said *John Cathcart* did, in the said Month of *June*, sell and deliver to Mess. *Gray* and *Maynard*, Agent Victuallers for the Fleet, the said Cargo of Brandy, at the Rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* Sterl. per Gal. And that in the said Month of *June*, he, this Deponent, and the said *John Cathcart*, did receive Payment for the same, Part in Money, and the Remainder, being 6*389*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.** Sterl. in a Bill of Exchange, drawn by the said Mess. *Gray* and *Maynard* on the Commissioners of Victualling in *London*; which Bill was under-wrote and certified by Admiral *Vernon* before he sailed from *Jamaica* on the *Cuba Expedition*. And this Deponent farther saith, That no Part of the said Brandy, so sold and delivered, had ever been in any Transport

port or other Vessel, in the Pay of the Government; but that all of it was brought to *Jamaica* in the said Ship *Brothers*; and that the Freight of it was paid to the said Ship's Owner, *Neil Buchanan*, Merchant in *London*. And lastly, this Deponent saith, That he perfectly knew, and was well acquainted with all the said *John Cathcart*'s Transactions during the whole time of the said Expedition; and he very well knows, that the said *John Cathcart* sold no Cargo, or Parcel of Brandy, to the Agent Victuallers for the Fleet, except the above Cargo delivered out of the said Ship *Brothers*, or any Brandy whatsoever, to any other Officers or private Men, in either Fleet or Army. And farther this Deponent saith not.

Sworn at Guildhall, London, DAVID CAMPBELL.

10 May 1744, before me,

EDWARD GIBBON.

This Mr. Campbell you knew during the Expedition; and his Character stands so fair with all who knew him, particularly with the Gentlemen that were in our Fleet and Army, that I esteem what he has said conclusive: But if you do not think this sufficient, I shall, for your farther Satisfaction, adduce other Affidavits to corroborate the Truth of his.

Your Insinuation to General *Wentworth*, in your said Letter of the 17 August, that my Solicitousness to have the Hospital Ship *Lynn* at *Cuba*, proceeded from my having Brandy in her to sell to the Army, must appear to have no Foundation in Truth, when the following Affidavit is perused; viz.

Middlesex.

Middlesex.

Robert Cathcart, Master and Commander of the Hospital Ship *Lynn* in the late Expedition to the *West Indies*, under the Command of the Honourable General *Wentworth*, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, saith, That he this Deponent was Master of and did command the said Ship *Lynn*, while and during all the time she was in the Government's Service as an Hospital Ship in the said Expedition, viz. from *May 1740*, to *March 1742*: That he this Deponent had from his Mates from time to time, and kept an exact Account of all Provisions, Liquors, and Stores, that were during that time put on board the said Ship *Lynn*, expressing the Mark, Number, and as near as could be known the Contents of each Parcel: And that *John Cathcart*, Director of the Hospital in the said Expedition, never had on board the said Ship *Lynn*, any Brandy except two Casks which were sent on board at *Spithead* before we sailed from *England*, and which were for the use of and used in the Hospital.

ROBERT CATHCART.

Sworn 10 May, 1744,
before me ROBERT
DENNETT.

Here the Person who ought to know, and really knows best, and who bears a fair Character in the World, affirms on Oath, That while the Hospital Ship *Lynn* was in the Service, I had not a drop of Brandy in her, except the two Casks mentioned in the Affidavit, and which I mentioned to you in my first Letter of the 29 March last, both which

were expended long before you proceeded on the *Cuba Expedition.*

Now, Sir, after having put this Affair of the Brandy in so clear a light, I hope you will not allow your vile Informers to remain longer unpunished and unexposed ; and that being convinced by what I have laid before you, you will be so just as to declare my Innocence : Surely it is incumbent upon you to do both.

Your next Accusation in your Letter to General *Wentworth* 19 Aug. 1741, is, that I deceived him by not representing Matters truly to him ; and you assure him, that none of your Officers would detain at *Jamaica* or impede the Hospital Ship *Lynn*, from coming to join the Army at *Cuba*. I beg leave, Sir, to observe, that this Accusation is of a more heinous Nature than your first, as a Deceiver and a Lyar is the most vile and detestable Character possible, especially in Affairs of great Consequence, which I esteem this to be. In my Letters to the General of the 16 July, 5 and 29 August 1741, which were all the Letters, I wrote him from *Jamaica* while he was at *Cuba*, I tell him the Reverse of all this, viz. That the Hospital Ship *Lynn* was actually detained and not suffered to stir out of *Port Royal Harbour*, by your Officer Commodore *Davers*, and, as he said, by an express Order from you. Whether you or I have represented this Matter in a fair and true light to General *Wentworth*, will evidently appear upon Perusal of the following original Papers ; viz.

To THOMAS DAVERS Esq; Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in Jamaica.

S I R,

Kingston, Jamaica, 2 July, 1741.

I Had Orders to remain here some Days after the sailing of the Fleet, to settle some Affairs relating to the Sick of the Army.

The Hospital Ship *Lynn*, Robert Cathcart Master, in which I am to proceed, having lost most of her Men and her two Mates by Death and Desertion, I wrote Mr. Wallace, Agent for the Transports, two Days before Admiral Vernon sailed, to represent the Case of this Ship to him, that he might supply her with a proper Person to go Mate, and ten good Seamen, without which we could not venture to Sea. I gave Mr. Wallace this trouble, because the Master of the *Lynn* was then sick, and I could not possibly wait on the Admiral myself; but had no Answer.

As you are here Commander in Chief, I beg leave to lay the State of this Ship before you, and to intreat the Assistance you may judge necessary for her Safety. She is a Ship of 530 Tons, hired by the Government, and fitted up to lodge 100 sick or wounded Men, and to carry the Master-Surgeon, nine other Surgeons and Apothecaries, myself and Servants, and the Servants of the Hospital, together with all the Medicines, a few excepted, and all the Surgical Instruments belonging to the Army. She has also on board all manner of Necessaries for the Sick, such as Bedding, and Refreshments, and for furnishing an Hospital on shore. These were purchased by the Government at a great Expence, and if lost will throw the Army into great Difficulties, because many of the most necessary Articles cannot be got

in America. We had when we left England our full Compliment of Hands, which is forty two, and they are now reduced to sixteen; in which number only six, besides the Master and Carpenter, can do the Duty of Seamen. We have got also eighteen Negroes from the General, but they are Land-men and cannot go aloft; therefore it is our Master's Opinion, that he cannot with any safety proceed without the Addition of ten good Hands, and a skilful sober Person to assist him as Mate, and succeed as Master, in case of his death. It consists with my Knowledge, that our Master has taken the utmost Pains, and been at a great Expence to get Seamen here, but cannot procure any for Money, except a Carpenter, and one Caulker.

You will therefore, Sir, be pleased to take this Matter into Consideration, and as the Health and Welfare of the Army very much depend on the Safety of this Ship, you will order the Assistance you judge proper to enable us to join the Fleet as soon as possible. I am, &c.

John Cathcart, Director of the Hospital.

N. B. I delivered the above to Commodore Davers with my own Hand on the 3d of July, and he promised to consider it, and give me an Answer if I would call the 5th, which I did.

To THOMAS DAVERS Esq; &c.

SIR,

Kingston, Jamaica, 6 July, 1741.

IN my Memorial of the second Instant, I did not lay before you all the Steps I had taken to get the Hospital Ship *Lynn* manned, before the Admiral sailed, thinking it more necessary and to the

the purpose to inform you fully of the State the Ship was in with respect to Hands to navigate her, and of the Importance it was to his Majesty's Service, to have her sent with Safety and Expedition to the Army: But as you was pleased to tell me last Night, that at your parting with the General and Admiral before they sailed, neither of them mentioned this Ship to you, tho' you asked the General particularly if he had any Commands; and therefore you thought there must have been a Neglect in not representing the State of this Ship to them, otherwise you could not suppose that a Ship I represented so necessary to the Service, would have been forgot or neglected: The following Fact, which I aver to be true in every Particular, will put this Matter in a clear Light.

Some Time before the Fleet sailed, I told the General that the Hospital Ship could not proceed without at least fourteen good Seamen from the Admiral: He desired me to give in the Number wanted to Mr. *Wallace*, Agent for the Transports, and that he, the General, would lay the State of that Ship, with some others in the like Condition, before the Admiral. I immediately went to Mr. *Wallace*, and did as directed; and a few Days afterwards, he told me that the State of the Hospital Ship *Lynn*, as to the want of fourteen Hands, with others in the like Case, had been laid before the Admiral, but he could not then tell me any thing with Certainty of what he intended to order upon it. And this Intimation from Mr. *Wallace* induced me to write him the Letter I mentioned in my Memorial to you.

I shall not, Sir, take up your time in guessing at the Reasons why a Supply of Men for this Ship was not ordered; it might probably proceed

from

from the Hurry of Affairs that commonly attend a Departure : and this is the most favourable Conjecture I can make. But let this be as it will, I hope it will appear to all concerned that I have done my Duty, which is only to represent in a proper Manner what is wanted, and to wait the Event.

Yesterday, by Accident, we got a sufficient Man to go Mate, so that only the ten good Seamen mentioned in my Memorial to you are wanted, in order to enable her to proceed with Safety ; which I intreat you will be pleased to furnish her with, for the Reasons laid before you in said Memorial, and in this. *I am, &c.*

JOHN CATHCART.

N. B. 1. The above was sent and delivered 6 July by Mr. Gray, Agent-Victualler for the Fleet, who promised to use his Interest with Mr. Davers to procure the Men I wanted.

2. I did not receive an Answer to the above Memorial until the 13 July ; a most tedious while to consider of such a simple plain Affair ! When I had a Message from Mr. Davers, that he wanted to speak with me about the *Lynn* : and then he gave her eight Seamen, which enabled her to proceed.

3. The Hospital Ship *Lynn* lay that Night, 13 July, unmoored, and would have sailed next Morning for *Cuba*, with the *York* Man of War, but the Breeze detained both the *York* and her that Day and the next, 15 July, when the *Strumbolo* Fireship, Captain *Durell*, arrived and brought me the following Letter from General *Wentworth's* Secretary ; viz.

SIR,

Grafton, 13 July, 1741.

SIR,

TH E General has ordered me to acquaint you, that he is very much surprized at your staying at *Jamaica*, after having the 18 Negroes you desired of him for navigating your Ship the *Lynn*, and desires, that *if she is not capable of proceeding hither*, you would embark with the Surgeon, and Mates, and the Medicines that may be wanted ; as also the above-mentioned Negroes, on board the Fireship, which Admiral *Vernon* now sends to *Port-Royal* for that purpose. *I am, &c.*

ELISHA DOD.

P. S. Mr. *Cathcart*, the Captain of the *Lynn* must be charged with the King's Stores on Board, which are to be forwarded as soon as practicable.

To Mr. CATHCART, Director of the Hospital for his Majesty's Land-Forces on Board the *Lynn*.

SIR, Suffolk, in Port-Royal Harbour, 15 July, 1741.

TI S the Admiral's Orders, that you immediately go on board the *Strumbolo* Fireship, and carry with you the Surgeons and Medicines, &c. for the Fleet : And Capt. *Durrell* has Orders to receive you and them, your Ship being thought not proper to turn to Windward, and the Surgeons and Medicines may be immediately wanted : For the *Lynn* is to remain in the Harbour, and I have ordered the Men, I put on board, to be removed into the *York*, and the Negroes into the Snow *Providence* ; and as the *Strumbolo* is to sail to-morrow Morning, I desire you will have every thing on board of her

her this Night, that she may not be hindered from going out. I have returned you the Obligation for the Mens Wages, and the List of Negroes I sent Mr. Wallace, who will return it you upon asking for. I am, &c.

T.HOMAS DAVERS.

To THOMAS DAVERS Esq; &c.

SIR, Strumbolo, 15 July 1741 --- 10 at Night.

YOUR Letter of this Date, this minute received, wherein you say, that it is the Admiral's Order, that the Hospital Ship *Lynn* shall remain in this Harbour, surprises me very mch, because it differs widely from the General's Orders to me, they being conditional only ; viz. " If the Hospital Ship *Lynn* is not capable of proceeding hither, then," &c. And the Admiral seems to be positive that she shall remain here. She was declared fit to be continued in the Service, by the Report of a Survey taken of that Ship, at my Request and by Admiral *Vernon*'s Order, by three of his Majesty's Master-Carpenters ; which Report was laid before the Admiral, some Weeks before he sailed : and by the Addition of the eight Seamen you put on board, she is well manned, has now her Boats and Pilot on board, lies unmoored, and the Master has my Order to sail in Company with us and the *York* to-morrow Morning. Therefore I intreat you will reconsider this matter, order the eight Seamen again on board, and permit her to go, if in any wise you find it consistent with what the Admiral writes you ; for her being with the Army is absolutely necessary, on account of the Refreshments and Necessaries she has on board for the Sick and Wounded : And

it

it is the Government's positive Order, that she shall constantly attend the Army, for the Reception and Accommodation of both.

Pray favour me with your Answer, as soon as you receive this, the *Strumbolo* being to sail to-morrow at Break of day, that I may take my measures accordingly ; for if the Hospital Ship does not proceed, it will be inconsistent with my Duty to depart before I make farther Application, for procuring Liberty for her to go.

I am, &c.

JOHN CATHCART.

N. B. . . I had not time to take a Copy of this Letter before it was sent, but afterward put down the Substance of it as above in my Book.

To Mr. CATHCART, Director, &c. on Board the *Strumbolo*.

SIR, Suffolk, in Port-Royal-Harbour, 15 July 1741.

I Thought I wrote you plain enough to be understood, that it is the Admiral's positive Order, that you and your Surgeons, Medicines, &c. remove into the *Strumbolo*, and proceed with her to the Fleet, and the *Lynn* not to stir out of this Harbour, and the General approves of it ; so I am sorry I cannot give you any hopes of going out in her, as you seem desirous of doing. *I am, &c.*

THOMAS DAVERS.

D.

To

To the Hon. General WENTWORTH.

S I R,

Port-Royal, Jamaica, 16 July 1741.

Yesteray Morning I had the Honour of Mr. *Dod's* Letter, by your Command, of the 13th Instant. You may justly be surprized, that my Stay here has been so long, but it wholly proceeded from want of Seamen to navigate the Hospital Ship ; for beside the 18 Negroes you ordered for her, you will be pleased to remember, that I told you she could not proceed without a Supply of Seamen from Admiral *Vernon* ; upon which you desired me to give the Number wanted in to Mr. *Wallace*, and told me, that other Transports were also in want of Hands, and they should be all asked for together. This I did ; and Mr. *Wallace* thereafter told me, that the Number our Ship wanted, with others, had been laid before the Admiral two Days before the Admiral sailed. I wrote Mr. *Wallace*, to know what I might depend upon, but received no Answer : And so soon as the Master of the *Lynn* told me, that the Admiral had put to Sea, and no Seamen had been ordered for our Ship, I apply'd by Memorial of the 2d, and then by another of the 6th Instant, to Commodore *Davers* for ten good Seamen, but could receive no satisfactory Answer before the 13th Instant ; when he sent for me, and told me, that he would spare me eight good Men if that would do, and that Evening sent them on board our Ship at *Port-Royal*, where all our Surgeons and I were attending, and the next Morning would have sailed, but the Wind proved contrary both to the *York* Man of War

and us : It proved the same yesterday, when at seven in the Morning your above Letter came to my hands ; upon Receipt of which the Surgeons and I embarked in the *Strumbolo*, with all the Instruments, Bandages, and what Medicines they thought proper to carry with them ; and I ordered the Hospital Ship to sail with us with the rest of the Medicines and Stores. This Disposition the Master-Surgeon, and I judged to be right, and perfectly agreeable to your Commands, seeing the Hospital Ship was then well manned, and capable to proceed. But, to my great Surprize, at 10 that Night, on board the *Strumbolo*, I received a Letter from Mr. *Davers*, telling me, that it was the Admiral's Orders, that the Hospital Ship *Lynn* was to remain in this Harbour. The late Time of Night, the Distance I was then from him, being three Miles, and my Fatigue through the Day hindered me from waiting then on him ; but I wrote him, and desired him to reconsider the Affair, and let her go ; but lest he would not comply, I put on board the *Strumbolo*, by the Master-Surgeon's Advice, a farther Supply of Medicines, and determined to stay behind, and get General *Guise* to interpose his Authority that she might proceed.

This Day I waited on Mr. *Davers*, showed him your Letter to me, which is conditional, *viz.* " If the Hospital Ship *Lynn* is not capable of proceeding hither, then, &c." I told him, she was capable of proceeding, as appears by a Report of a Survey taken by Admiral *Vernon's* Order, and laid before him some Weeks before he sailed, and then asked him, if he would permit her to go to join the Army, urging the Prejudice it might prove to the Army, if he

detained her here. To this he answered, in plain terms, "Sir, I have the Admiral's positive Order to detain her here, and not to let her proceed; adding, that Mr. Vernon had wrote him, that you agreed to it, or approved of it." I told him there was a Mystery or Mistake in the Affair, which I could not comprehend, for he plainly saw you had wrote to me the direct contrary.

I shall apply to General Guise for Directions, what Steps to take in this Conjunction, and either proceed to the Army in the Deptford Man of War, that is to sail in few days, or wait here for further Orders from you, as he shall judge most proper.

I have the Honour to be, &c. JOHN CATHCART.

To the Hon. Brig. General GUISE.

SIR,

Kingston, Jamaica, 17 July 1741.

ON the 15th Instant, late at Night, Commodore Davers informed me by Letter, that it was Admiral Vernon's Orders to him that the Hospital Ship *Lynn* should remain in this Harbour, and not proceed to join the Army. This only hindered her from sailing Yesterday Morning, having had all in readiness and my Order for that purpose.

You will easily perceive the Prejudice the Service must sustain by this Ship's being detained here, considering the great Supply of Necessaries she has on board for the Sick and Wounded, together with all that is proper for compleatly furnishing an Hospital on Shore, provided by the Government at a great Expence, and order'd

to be delivered to her, and sent off to the Army at Dover.

to be always with the Army, but now rendered useless by the above Detention.

As you are Commander in Chief here, it is my Duty to lay this Affair before you as above represented; and, if you agree with me in Opinion, to request that you will be pleased to signify to Mr. Davers, the Necessity there is for the Army to have the above Necessaries and Stores, and the Hospital Ship to attend it; and that he will therefore permit her to depart.

That you may see distinctly what I have done in this Affair, I beg leave to lay before you for your Perusal, my two Memorials to Mr. Davers, of the 2d and 6th Instant, General Wentworth's Letter to me of the 13th, with my Answer of the 16th Instant; together with two Letters from Mr. Davers, and one to him, all of the 15th Instant.

I am, with great Respect, &c.

JOHN CATHCART.

To THOMAS DAVERS Esq;

SIR, Kingston, Jamaica, 18 July 1741.

YOUR Letter to me, of the 15th Inst. in Answer to mine of the same Date, I received early the Day following, and have since waited on General Guise, laid before him General Wentworth's Letter to me, relating to the Hospital Ship *Lynn*, with my Answer thereto; as also all the Instances I have made to you, that you might permit said Ship to proceed to the Army: and I have showed him, not only the Necessity of this, but also that it is the Government's positive Command, upon the Establishment of the Hospital, that the said Ship should always attend the same, to receive and accommodate the Sick and Wounded. Upon which he has wrote

you

you the inclosed Letter, desiring you will permit her to depart. I humbly join with him in the same Request, for the above and former Reasons given you ; especially because when the Fleet was bound to *Carthagena*, she turned as fast to Windward, as far as our Rendezvous *Donna Maria* Bay, and from thence to *Port-Louis*, as others of the Transports did : And if you think fit to order a Survey upon her now, I know, from the Report of the former Survey, and the Repairs she has had since, you will find her sufficiently provided, and in a proper trim to turn to Windward.

I am sorry for the trouble I have given you in this Affair ; but now I have done with it ; and if you continue determined to detain her here after this, and what General *Guise* has wrote you, be pleased to signify so much to me in two Lines, that the Blame, if any, may not lie upon me, but where it ought ; for now in the Hurricane-Season, her Risque is more here than at Sea, or in a Harbour to Windward ; and that you will allow me, and my Servant, and 18 Negroes, now in the *Lynn*, and belonging to the Army, to go in the *Deptford* Man of War to join it.

I am, &c.

JOAN CATHCART.

*Extract from my Journal 18 and 19 July,
1741.*

Saturday, 18 July, 1741. This Day, in the Afternoon, I delivered Mr. Davers my Letter of this Date on board the *Suffolk*, in the Narrows : As to the Hospital Ship *Lynn*, he told me, he would not let her go till he had Orders for it from the Admiral ; and this he would let Brigadier *Guise* know by a Letter.

As

As to the 18 Negroes, he said, they might have gone in the *Strumbolo*, or by the Snow *Providence*, and that he would not let them go in the *Deptford*, until General *Guise* desired it. As to my going in the *Deptford*, he said, her Commander, Capt. *Mofteyn*, might carry me or not, as he pleased; but that he would not give him any Orders about it. — To which I answered, That I could not part with the 18 Negros, who were appointed to help to navigate the Hospital Ship *Lynn*, until he had positively refused to let said Ship go, against the express Desire of the Commander in Chief, here signified to him in the Letter I had now delivered him. I then asked him, when the *Deptford* would sail? He told me early on *Monday* the 20th Instant. From the *Suffolk* I went about 3 Miles farther on board the *Deptford*, told Capt. *Mofteyn* what the Commodore said about my going in his Ship, and asked him, if he would allow me a Passage with him? He told me, he was just come from the Commodore; that he was sorry he should refuse any Gentleman so small a Favour; but as things stood, he could not allow me to go without an Order from him in writing. I then asked him when he would sail? He smiled, and said, as soon as he could. From thence I made what haste I could to *Kingston*, and sent an Express to General *Guise*, telling him the Answer I received from Mr. *Davers* as above, and desiring he would sign and return me the following Letter to Mr. *Davers*, that I might embark myself and the Negroes the next Day, being *Sunday*, on board the *Deptford*, she being to sail early on *Monday*.

To Commodore DAVERS, on board the Suffolk.

S I R,

Halfway-tree, 18 July, 1741.

MR. Cathcart, by whom I sent you my Letter of this Date, desiring you would permit the Hospital Ship *Lynn* to go to join the Army, brings me for Answer, that you cannot do it, having positive Orders from Admiral *Vernon*, to keep her here. As this is the Case, I desire you will allow Mr. Cathcart and his Servant, as also eighteen Negroes now in the said Ship *Lynn*, to go in the *Deptford* Man of War, that they may join it as soon as possible; because as Mr. Cathcart can do no more here, his Attendance there may be necessary; therefore, be pleased to send him by the Bearer, an Order to Captain *Mosteyn* to receive him, his Servant, and said Negroes. I am, &c.

Guise.

Sunday, 19 July, 1741. This Letter being signed and returned to me, I sent early this Morning to Mr. Davers on board the *Suffolk*, by Mr. Campbell, an Officer in Col. Cochran's Regiment; in Answer to which he brought a Letter from Mr. Davers to Brigadier Guise, telling him that contrary to Expectation, the *Deptford* had sailed that Morning, Captain *Mosteyn* having desired it the Night before, to prevent his Seamen from deserting: But he told Mr. Campbell, by word of Mouth, that had she staid, it was doubtful if I should have gone in her.

To

To the Honourable Brigadier-General
WENTWORTH.

S I R,

Kingston, Jamaica, 5 Augt. 1741.

I Beg leave to refer you to my Letter of the 16 July: I endeavoured to get a Passage, as therein mentioned, in the *Deptford* Capt. *Mossteyn*, in order to attend my Duty in the Army, seeing Commodore *Davers* would not, at the Desire of Brigadier *Guise*, permit the Hospital Ship *Lynn* to depart; but to my great Surprize, Mr. *Davers* refused me an Order in Writing for Capt. *Mossteyn* to receive me, and without it the Captain told me I could not go. This I am told is the only Instance in this or any former Expedition, of refusing a Person who bears his Majesty's Commission, a Passage for a few Leagues in one of his Ships.

After this, Brigadier *Guise* ordered me a Passage in the Ship *Forward*, one of your Transports, that is to carry Wine for the Use of the Men of War in *Cumberland* Harbour; but upon Receipt of your Letter to him dated 31 July, he sent me with a Letter to Mr. *Davers*, who has a Deputation from Mr. *Wallace* to officiate as Agent of Transports for him here, telling him that he thought it necessary that the Stores in the Hospital Ship *Lynn* should be sent to the Army as soon as possible, and therefore desired they might be put on board the *Humphry* Transport, and that she may proceed with them: This I thought exceeding right, that as he would not permit the Hospital Ship *Lynn* to go, the Stores should be forwarded, and she either used here as an Infirmary Ship, or discharged: In answer to this Letter he wrote to the Brigadier, but as he

E thought,

thought, not much to the Purpose ; viz. That she could not be got ready to sail with the Ships that go To-morrow. This the Brigadier very well knew, and did not expect or think she could : And to me, he said, That he thought another Transport would be as proper as the *Humphry*, because she wanted sixteen Men of her Complement. Whether he will consent to this reasonable Proposal, is yet uncertain ; but if he do not, I cannot see how he can account for taking one of the Army's Transports to carry Wine for the Fleet, and not permit another of them at the special Desire of the Commander in Chief here, to carry what is equally or more necessary for the Army, — The Stores for the Sick and Wounded.

Be this as it will, as I find Mr. *Guise* leaves this Affair wholly to Mr. *Davers*, and does not think it convenient to exert the Power he has as Commander in Chief here relating to it ; and as I cannot carry it farther either by speaking or writing, I shall proceed as the Brigadier has directed in the Ship *Forward* to the Army, and leave Orders with Mr. *Campbell* the Commissary, to take care of the Stores in the Hospital Ship until your farther Orders come relating to them, which Orders he has promised to execute with Care.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

JOHN CATHCART.

To

To the Honourable Admiral VERNON in
Cumberland Harbour; or in his Absence,
Sir CHALONER OGLE.

S I R,

Kingston, Jamaica, 29 Aug. 1741.

Yesterday Captain Davers sent for me, and told me, That he had now your leave to let the Hospital Ship *Lynn* go to join the Fleet, but that he would not assist her with any Men. I answered, that the same Reasons subsisted as he had six Weeks ago, when he gave her what Men she wanted: but he seems positive, and I believe will not give her any Assistance until you order it. As it is but twelve Men that she wants, and that only until she get to Cumberland Harbour, or where the Fleet may be, I beg you may be pleased to give him Orders to supply her with so many, for it is not at this time in the Power of any Man to get Seamen here to go in the Transport Service. I beg leave to add my sincere Wishes for your Success, and that I am with great Respect, &c.

JOHN CATHCART.

To the Honourable Brigadier-General
WENTWORTH.

S I R,

Kingston, Jamaica, 29 Aug. 1741.

IN the last Letter I had the Honour to write you 5th Instant, I told you that if Captain Davers would not comply with Brigadier Guise's Desire of sending the Hospital Stores in one of the Army's Transports, I intended to proceed to the Army in the Ship *Forward*, and leave said Stores under the Care of Mr. Campbell the Commissary. Said Ship *Forward*, tho' near loaded

this Week past is still here, nor has Mr. Davers complied with the Brigadier's Desire; but Yesterday he sent for me, and told me, That the Admiral had given him leave to let the Hospital Ship *Lynn* proceed to join the Fleet; but that he, Captain *Davers*, would not assist her with any Seamen, not so much as a Boy. I then again proposed his sending the Stores by one of our own Transports, as General *Guise* had formerly requested, and that he would, if he had Power so to do, discharge the Hospital Ship *Lynn* to ease the Government of a great Expence, being now rendered useless for want of Hands. As to the first, his Answer was, he would not; and as to the last, he desired me to tell the Master of the *Lynn*, that he would discharge his Ship from the Service if in ten Days she was not sufficiently manned. I believe it will be impossible for him to find Seamen, and as impossible for any Person to get Warehouse-room here for the Stores; and therefore I have wrote to Admiral *Vernon*, and in his Absence to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, requesting an Order for twelve Seamen, Duplicate of which Letter I send you herewith, that you may be pleased to add what you think proper, to prevent the great Inconveniency of landing the Hospital Stores here, where they will spoil and decay, and not answer the End intended by the Government. *I am with great Respect, &c.*

TRAINTON ADT

JOHN CATHCART.

Large stores fit for no. wind. I do think I
missed the day yesterday and I could not get
as soon as I saw some one with Extra
time I had to show a man at the time a strong
man always full weight & I do not think a man
of 100

*Extract of a Letter to the Honourable Sir
WILLIAM YONGE, Secretary at War,
dated Jamaica, 5 Sept. 1741.*

TH E Hospital Ship *Lynn*, with all the Bedding, Necessaries and Stores for the Sick, is still detained here, first by Admiral *Vernon's* Order, and now that being recalled by the Conduct of his Substitute here Commodore *Davers*, who will not supply her with a few Hands to help to navigate her to *Cumberland Harbour* only; and by the last I have even been refused so small a Favour as my Passage to the Army in one of his Majesty's Ships: If ever they are required to justify this Conduct of detaining this Ship and me from the Army so long, which may be the Case, they will find it very difficult, if not altogether impossible. It will not avail them to say, That no Damage has ensued, because the Army has been in good Health and did not want Necessaries for Sick; for the contrary might have happened! However, that no Blame may lie at my Door, I beg leave to send you herewith Copies of all my Proceedings in this Affair, that if wanted Recourse may be had to them, especially to vindicate my own Conduct therein, which to the best of my Judgement has been for the Good of the Service.

JOHN CATHCART.

I shall not, Sir, trouble you with more original Papers, what I have now sent you being sufficient to make plain and evident what I undertook to prove; and I shall wait a Week or ten Days for your Answer, which I hope will prevent my pub-

publishing the foregoing and some other Papers I have yet to add.

I am with great Respect, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JOHN CATHCART.

May 29, 1744.

AS the preceding Pages contain a distinct Narration of what has past betwixt Admiral *Vernon* and me, since the Publication of that Pamphlet, intituled, *Original Papers relating to the Expedition to the Island of Cuba*, wherein I am so highly injured; and as he hath not thought fit to take the least notice of what I have wrote to him on the Subject of some Letters published in the said Pamphlet, notwithstanding my repeated and earnest Requests to him, and that I have waited for his Answers much beyond the time mentioned in the last Paragraph of the foregoing Letter; I hope that no unprejudiced Person, nor indeed that he himself, will blame me for taking this Method of vindicating myself to the Publick, with regard to an Affair that tends so very much to the utter Ruin of my Character and Interest in the World. I must therefore appeal to every impartial Reader, If, in the first place, I have not made it plain and evident, that Admiral *Vernon's* Accusation of me, in relation to the Article of Brandy aboard his Majesty's Transports, is absolutely false and groundless; there having been no part of the said Brandies in any Ship but the *Brothers*, freighted at private Charge; nor any, for Sale to the Army, on board the Hospital Ship *Lynn*, as the Admiral insinuated to General *Wentworth*.

2dly,

2dly, That the Hospital Ship *Lynn* was actually detained at *Jamaica*, by an Officer of the Admiral, Capt. *Davers*, and that this Detention proceeded, as the said Officer asserts in his two Letters to me of the 15 July, 1741, from an express and positive Order from Admiral *Vernon*. 'Tis probable the Admiral might have forgotten that he gave such an Order to Captain *Davers*, but it is no less probable that Captain *Davers* put him in Mind of it in his Letter to him of the 15 July, by Captain *Durell*; and in others subsequent to that, by telling him he had complied with his said Order, and had detained the Ship. This not an Officer of the meanest Capacity seldom or ever omits to do to his Superior; nor can such an Omission be even supposed in a Gentleman of Captain *Davers*'s Character, who perfectly knows his Duty. These Letters too from Capt. *Davers*, the Admiral must have had in his Possession on and before the 17th of August 1741; for on that Day he wrote to General *Wentworth**; and therefore I cannot account for his assuring the General in his Letter to him of the 19th of

said

* "Being desirous to transmit your Letters to your Hands
"as soon as I can, I dispatch them to you before I have
"read all my Letters. But finding two Paragraphs in Capt.
"Davers's Letter relating to the *Norway* Merchant Tran-
"sport, and the *Lynn* Hospital Ship, I have drawn out Ex-
"tracts of them for you, that you may give the Orders
"in the Affair that you think proper; and I cannot but
"agree with Captain *Davers*, that it would be proper to dis-
"charge them from the Service: for were the *Lynn* Hospi-
"tal Ship here, she could be of no Service to you, as she
"draws too much Water for getting her into the River
"Augusta: So that she must lie in the Harbour with us,
"which I take to be at least seven Leagues from your
"Camp, which would render her of no Service to you as
"an Hospital Ship. And I take Mr. *Cathcart*'s Solicitousness
"about her to be in regard to other Merchandise on board,
"that might not be so serviceable to the Army, &c."

said Month, that no Officer of his would have impeded or detained the Hospital Ship *Lynn* from coming to *Cuba*.

3dly. That the Detention of the Hospital Ship *Lynn* was not falsely represented by me to General *Wentworth*, as the Admiral tells him ; but in a true, plain, and undefining Manner, well supported by Facts and good Authorities : and that my Endeavours to get the said Ship and Stores for the Sick to *Cuba*, proceeded from the great Desire I had to do every thing in my Power, for the Good of his Majesty's Service, being persuaded that both the Ship and Stores would be of great Use to the Army ; and not from any Solicitousness I had on account of other Merchandise aboard, as the Admiral is pleased to say.

And lastly, I cannot help appealing to the Reader, if, from what has been laid before him, it does not likewise appear that the Admiral has at least run into the Belief of some things, and has asserted some Facts, which never had any Existence but in the Imagination, perhaps, of a prejudiced Informer, or in his own Misapprehension : And that by such assumed, groundless and wayward Opinions, he, in some Degree, obstructed this Branch of his Majesty's Service in the said Expedition ; however much he might have imagined he had the Good of some others at Heart. To make this yet more manifest, I shall take the Liberty to add from my Journal and other Letters, an exact Account how the said Hospital Ship at last got from *Jamaica* to *Cuba*, and of what Use she and the Stores were to the Army when she arrived there.

Friday, 18 Sept. 1741.

THIS Day General *Guise* told me, that he had ordered Lieutenant Colonel *Edmondston*, Major *Stewart*, Captain *Stewart*, Lieut. *John Campbell*, and Lieutenant *John Ferguson*, with forty Soldiers, to have their Passage in the *Lynn* Hospital Ship to the Army in *Cuba*. I said the Ship was ready to put to sea, but still wanted eight of her Complement of Seamen; and I urged the Necessity of having this Ship fully manned, this being the height of the hurricane Season, and she having on board the Stores for the Sick, kept here already too long, and the above Officers and Soldiers; and that as Commodore *Davies* had now in this Harbour above 2000 Seamen, he might possibly be induced from these Reasons to spare eight of them to this Ship. General *Guise* immediately wrote him pressingly upon this Head, and requested, that he would lend this Ship eight Men only, until she joined the Fleet, and then to be returned to the Man of War they belonged to.

Saturday, 19 Sept. 1741. This Day General *Guise* shewed me Commodore *Davies's* Answer to his Letter of Yesterday, in which he says, " As to the *Lynn* I can spare her no Men, and if she wants eight of her Complement, I believe she'll not go this Trip."

I told the Master of the Hospital Ship of this flat Refusal from Commodore *Davies*; and that the above Officers and Soldiers were order'd to proceed in his Ship, amongst which last some might be found that could help to work his Ship, upon a Promise of full Pay and other Encouragements. I told him farther, That his Ship and

the other Transports were to sail to *Cuba* under the Convoy of two Men of War, the *Defiance* and the *Ludlow-Castle*, who would probably spare us some Seamen after we got out of the Harbour: Upon which, he and I resolved to get things in readiness, and to venture out with the rest.

Saturday 26 Sept. 1741. This Day Col. *Edmondstoun*, with the other Officers and 100 Soldiers, in place of 40, embarked in the Hospital Ship *Lynn*; which made the Safety of this Ship of so much the greater Consequence to the Service by the Addition of 60 Soldiers, all in Health and fit for Duty. I therefore desired her Master to go and represent this to Commodore *Davers*, and request a Supply of eight or ten Seamen, being informed that he had promised to assist the other Transports that were to sail with us, with what Seamen they wanted. But this Effort had no Effect, as the Master of the *Lynn* upon his Return told me, and that the Commodore's Answer was, "Sir, you are not to depend upon or expect any Assistance from me."

Monday, 28 Sept. 1741. The Master of the *Lynn* being told that Commodore *Davers* had this Day sent down Seamen to man the Transports, went on board the *Defiance*, Capt. *Trevor*, who had the distributing of them, to ask if there were any for his Ship; and upon his Return, he told me, that Captain *Trevor's* Answer was, "The Commodore has sent down fifty Seamen to man the Transports, with a List of the Ships Names that are to be assisted, but your Ship is not in the List." Colonel *Edmondstoun* and Major *Stewart*, upon hearing this, proposed to write

write a Letter on this Subject to Mr. Davers ; but when I told them the pressing Instances that had been made to him on this Head by General Guise, myself and our Captain, and the Answers of the Commodore to us all, they thought it would have no Effect, and so dropt it...

Extract of my Letter 29 Sept. 1741, to the Honourable Sir WILLIAM YONGE Bart. Secretary at War.

THE chief Design of this, is to bring to your Hands the inclosed Abstract from my Journal relating to the Hospital Ship *Lynn*, by which you will see the Treatment she has met with since my last Letters to you of the 5th and 12th Instant.

If it please God to send me in Safety to the Army, I shall keep you advised of any thing that may occur worthy of your Notice that relates to my Office in it, in compliance with the Orders you was pleased to give me at parting. In the mean time, I beg leave to observe, that if the Cause of the Detention of this Hospital Ship *Lynn*, and the Stores for the Sick for so many Months from it, be inquired into as it ought, and not passed over in Silence, Commanders will be more cautious in giving Orders, and more ready to give Help in time of Need ; which will have a very good Effect, and be of very great Benefit and Advantage to this and future Expeditions to these Parts so far from home.

N. B. We sailed from Port-Royal in Jamaica 29 Sept. and arrived at Cumberland Harbour in Cuba 11 Oct. 1741. During the Passage, our Ship the *Lynn* was never amongst the last of our

Fleet, and the Convoy never spared Sail for us in particular ; which is a farther Proof of her being neither so heavy or leewardly as represented to the General by Mr. *Vernon*.

*Extracts from my Journal from 12 Oct. to
30 Nov. 1741.*

Cuba, Monday 12 Oct. 1741.

THIS Morning in my way to the Camp, Doctor *Dalrymple*, who was then attending some of the Sick in * *Humber River*, told me, That the Hospital Ship was come in good time ; because the Army began to be sickly : That the prevailing Distemper in it was the Flux, that the Sick had no Beds to lie upon, few Bedclothes to keep them from the Damps and Cold of the Nights, which began to be very heavy and sharp, and that they had no Refreshments to take : He desired me to inform the General of all this as soon as I reached the Camp. This I did, adding that the Sick might now have what was wanted of Beds, Bedding and Refreshments. The General said, He was glad they were come, and desired I might issue them from time to time as Doctor *Dalrymple* should direct, and that I should send him a particular Account of all the Stores I brought with me.

On the 2d of November, being on board the Hospital Ship in *Cumberland Harbour*, I received late at Night, a Letter from Doctor *Dalrymple* in the Camp, telling me that the Sickness there had increased very much, that the General had ordered eighty of the worst to be sent to the Hospital Ship, and that it would be proper for me to wait

* This is the same River that the Admiral calls *Augusta*.

wait on him, to get a farther Supply of Negro Nurses, because I needed not expect that any white Nurses could now be spared from the Camp.

On the 3d Instant, I got to the Camp in the Evening, where the General told me, that he had ordered eighty of the Sick to be sent on board the Hospital Ship with 10 Negroes to attend them ; and that if any of the ten proved unfit to serve in the Hospital, they should be changed, and better sent in their place.

On the 8th Inst. Doctor *McKenzie* was sent in our Long-boat to the Ships in the *Humber* that had Sick on board, to pick out of the worst of them, as many as she could carry, and she brought 24. This Day Major *Hamilton* and Major *Stewart* were brought on board the Hospital Ship, and on the 10th Instant, Sir *Robert Abercromby* and Capt. *McKnight*, all dangerously ill. By those that brought the two last, we heard, that the Sickness in the Camp, and amongst the Transports in the River, had increased so much, that but few remained well to keep guard, and help to embark the Baggage and Artillery. Admiral *Vernon* sent an Assistance of Men and Boats, and on the 15th Instant the Sick, Artillery and Baggage being embarked, the Camp was burnt, and the Remains of the Army, about 400, as I was told, including Officers of all Ranks, marched to their Transports down the River-side about 8 Miles. In the Rear were 45 Officers accoutered as Soldiers, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel *Whitefoord*, and about 3 Afternoon, they got to their Ships: About 40 fell sick on the March, and about 360 embarked in Health.

On getting the Sick on board the Hospital Ship, most of her Officers and Seamen were seized

seized with the Fever, so that we could not send our Long-boat to the River for more Sick. On the 16th, 17th, and 18th, most of the Transport Ships got out of the River into the Harbour ; and on the 19th early, I told the General, that we had room in the Hospital for 30 more Sick, but that we could not man our Boat to fetch them, or spare a Surgeon to pick them, having now but two that were able to do Duty in the Hospital. He told me they should be sent, and that Day his own Surgeon brought on board 26.

About this time the Sicknes became very mortal : for on the 21st Instant, I sent the General a Return of the Sick in the Hospital Ship from the 4th Instant, by which it appeared, that we had taken in 115 Patients, of which 56 died, and 59 remained under Cure ; so this Day we had room for 41 Patients more, which I desired might be sent.

On the 25th and 26th Instant, we took in our full Compliment of Sick, and on the 27th, in sailing out of the Harbour, being weakly manned, and not able to manage our Sails, our Ship ran aground. The Admiral sent us Assistance of Men and Boats, which enabled us to get off, and the next day we sailed for *Jamaica* ; where on the 30th Instant at Noon, we arrived safe ; and when the Hospital Ship left *Cumberland* Harbour, we had the following sick Officers in her great Cabbin and Gun-room, viz. Major *Stewart*, Sir *Robert Abercromby*, Capt. (now Major) *Wentworth*, Mr. *Pitt*, Assistant to the Deputy Pay-Master-General, Lieutenants *Stewart*, *Dalrymple* and *Campbell* : Major *Hamil-ton* of *Harrison's*, and Lieutenant *Swiney* of *Cochram's*, went to their Transports, being pretty well

well recovered, to make room for two of the above.

The Reader, from what has been here laid before him, must now plainly see of what great Use and Service the Hospital Ship *Lynn* and the Stores were to the Army, after she arrived at *Cuba*, how necessary it was for me to press for her Departure, and how rightly General *Wentworth* judged in not ordering her to be discharged at *Jamaica*, as advised by Admiral *Vernon* in his above-cited Letter to him, pag. 39, of the 17th *August*, 1741. I shall only further add a Letter from me to Sir *William Yonge*, of the 12th of *December* 1741. in order to shew what my Sentiments then were as to these Matters; with which I shall conclude, and leave the whole to the Consideration of the Publick.

*To the Honourable Sir WILLIAM YONGE
Bart. Secretary at War.*

S I R,

Kingston, Jamaica, 12 December 1741.

I DID myself the Honour to write you fully by this Conveyance the *Dunkirk* Man of War; this being intended to remedy one great Inconveniency attending the Army's Hospital Ship in these Parts where we now are.

The Hospital Ships, that attend the Ships of War here, are his Majesty's Property, and therefore are supplied from his Stores, and by the Commanders of his Ships with all Necessaries and a sufficient Number of Officers and Seamen to navigate them with safety, so that they are never left behind when it is judged necessary that they should attend the Fleet. The Hospital Ship ap-

appointed to attend the Land Forces must be allowed to be equally necessary, and of Use and Service to them ; but as she is a hired Ship, and not belonging to the Government, she is not intitled to these Advantages : on the contrary, ever since she came under the power of Admiral *Vernon*, she has been exceedingly ill-used ; some Proofs of which I beg leave to lay before you in the following Facts.

At *Jamaica*, in the Month of *January* last, her Carpenter, a necessary Officer, and two of her Sailors were *pressed* on board his Squadron : No Solicitations could recover them either before we left *Jamaica*, or in *February* following, when in *Irish Bay*, in *Hispaniola* ; and in *March* before we entered *Cartagena* Harbour, when we had none to caulk our Decks to keep the Sick and ourselves dry, I solicited him for this Officer, but did not succeed. At last, when in the utmost Distress, two Days before we left *Cartagena* Harbour, in the latter End of *April*, I represented to him by Letter the pitiful Condition we were then in, for want of the said Officer and two Seamen ; adding, what the Consequence might probably be, if they were not returned to us. This had the desired Effect, and next Morning they were sent back after a Detention of near four Months.

After our Return from *Cartagena* to *Jamaica* in *June* last, I petitioned Commodore *Lefstock*, appointed to grant Surveys, for one on the Hospital Ship, and the Report of said Survey was, that she was fit to be kept in the Service, if her Rudder and some other Parts were repaired.

Her

Her Master applied to Admiral *Vernon* for a Piece of Timber from the King's Yard to mend the Rudder. His Answer was, You shall have none. And by meer Accident a Piece was found elsewhere *.

In the said Month of *June*, some time before the Fleet sailed from *Jamaica* to *Cuba*, General *Wentworth* sent Admiral *Vernon* a Representation in writing of such Transports as could not proceed for want of Seamen, and the Number each Ship wanted; and amongst others, that the Hospital Ship *Lynn* wanted fourteen. The other Transports got help, and did proceed: But the Hospital Ship got none, till after a painful Solicitation of 11 Days after the Fleet sailed, Commodore *Davies* gave her the Seamen she wanted. Two days thereafter, being the 15th of *July* last, when she would have sailed under the Convoy of the *York* Man of War to join the Army at *Cuba*, he recalled the Seamen he had given, and wrote me, that by Admiral *Vernon*'s positive Order, she was to remain in Port, nor would he permit her to sail. Under this Embargo, or arbitrary Detention, she continued to the latter End of

* After searching Kingston and Port-Royal, for two Days, for such a Piece, of Timber as we wanted; the Master of the *Lynn* brought me word, that he had found a Piece proper for the Use in a Parcel of Mabogany, which Mr. Woodcock, Merchant in Kingston, was then shipping for England. This Gentleman, upon bearing our Case, generously spared it to us.

of August following, and then the Commodore told me, that the Admiral did allow her to depart ; but that he, Mr. Davers, was determined not to spare her one Seaman. And he kept his Word strictly : For on the 28th of September following, he assisted the other Transports that were to sail the next Day with us, with fifty Seamen, and would not give the Hospital Ship one.

Last Month, November, when the Hospital Ship was coming out of Cumberland Harbour in Cuba, having no Seamen to manage her Sails, she run aground. The Admiral seeing our Distress, sent about 120 Seamen under the Command of three Lieutenants, Lord Thomas Bertie, Mr. Lefley, and his own. After about twelve Hours of hard Labour, they got her off, saw the weak
 * Condition we were in (having but five white
 Men

* Many of our Transports on leaving Cumberland Harbour, were in as weak a Condition as we, as will appear by the following melancholy Instance, taken from my Journal ; Kingston, Jamaica, 5 December, 1741. " This Day came an Account of the Loss of one of our Transports, the Elizabeth Pink, a fine Ship. She was missing seven Days after those who sailed with her from Cumberland Harbour, arrived here ; but one of her Passengers, Lieutenant Swiney, is now come, and gives the following Particulars of her Loss. He says, that when she left the Harbour the 26th of last Month, she was so weakly manned, that they could not stow an Anchor that hung at her Bow,

Men capable of doing Duty on board, *viz.* the Master, Second Mate, Carpenter, and two Seamen,

" Bow, that they neglected to cut it away, any
 " that had skill in these Matters being sick and
 " below Deck ; and that before next Morning
 " with the Ship's working, it had made a Hole
 " in her, when they found the Water up to her
 " lower Deck, and her Pumps choaked : They had
 " all just Time enough to get into the Long-boat
 " (being thirty-two in Number) before she sunk,
 " except two that were left in the Ship below
 " Deck, the Boatswain and another, who had
 " not Strength to crawl up. They had not time
 " to get any Sails, Water or Provisions, or to save
 " any thing of Value, having nothing with them
 " but three or four Oars, and were from *Friday*
 " Morning till *Saturday* Evening before they
 " got to the east End of *Jamaica* ; where they
 " got ashore to Mr. *Hamilton*'s Plantation, and
 " there are taken Care of till they get Strength
 " to come here. The Master of the Ship died
 " soon after he landed. There were seven Offi-
 " cers in this Ship, *viz.* Capt. *Killegrew*, Capt.
Robert Pointz, Lieut. *Swiney*, Lieut. *Ferguson*,
 " and three more whose Names I forget, who
 " have lost all their Clothes and Baggage.
 " *Killegrew*, we hear, has lost all his own and
 " his Company's Money, about 400*l.* Sterling ;
 " Col. *Whitefoord*, Sir *Robert Abercromby*, and
 " Sir *Patrick Murray* had in her, and have lost,
 " all their Clothes and Equipages, besides 100*l.*
 " in Money belonging to Sir *Robert*, and some
 " Plate that belonged to our late General, Lord
Cathcart."

men, with eighteen Negroes, two of which only could go aloft) and promised to report it to the Admiral, and no doubt did; but he spared us no Seamen for our Voyage to *Jamaica*: for the above Gentlemen with all their People left us about a Mile without the Harbour, after they had set our Sails and stowed our Anchors and Boats. Lord *Thomas*, at parting with many valuable Officers we had then sick on board, said, he feared we should not get safe to *Jamaica*, if the Wind shifted or over-blown, and therefore gave our Master his best Advice how to manage.

If it should be asked, Why this willful Neglect of the Safety of a Ship so necessary to the Service, or why so long detained from the Army contrary to the Intention and express Order of the Government? I think no satisfactory Answer could be given. However, to prevent for the future the like unheard-of Conduct, and that the Army, as well as the Fleet, may have a certain Dependance on their Hospital Ship's being always with it; I humbly think there is no better Way than to get an Order or Warrant from the Lords of the *Admiralty*, directed to the Commanders of his Majesty's Ships in the *West Indies*, and all concerned, to aid and assist the Hospital Ship for the Land-Forces at all times and in all Places, in the same Manner and with the same Care and Punctuality as if she did really belong to the Navy, and was a King's Ship. I presume to send you herewith a Draught of such a Warrant, which I think will answer the End; and the getting it effected in the Manner you may judge most proper, I think will be attended with no Difficulty;

Difficulty ; seeing the Good of the Service and past Conduct necessarily require it. Only I must request, that tho' the Form of the Draught of the Warrant I send you be altered, yet you will preserve the whole Substance of it, and get it, if you think proper, made yet stronger, because nothing but what is positive and express, will at some Times and in some Places operate as it ought.

As I have always found you willing and desirous to do every thing cheerfully for the Good of his Majesty's Service, I shall make no Apology for the Trouble I now give you ; having the Honour to be, with great Respect, &c.

JOHN CATHCATT.



DRAUGHT

DRAUGHT of the Warrant mentioned in the
foregoing Letter.

By the Right Honourable, the Lords, &c.

WHEREAS the Health and Well-being
of his Majesty's Land-Forces in the pre-
sent Expedition to the *West Indies* very much
depend upon the Safety and Preservation of the
Hospital Ship appointed to attend them in all
Expeditions, You are hereby directed and re-
quired upon Sight hereof, and at the Request of
John Cathcart, Director of the Hospital in the
said Expedition; or the Director for the Time
being, and the Master of the said Ship, to send
two or more proper Officers on board of her, to
the end that you may be particularly informed
of her State and Condition, as to her Hull, Masts,
Yards, Sails, Rigging, Ground-Tackle, Officers
and Seamen; all which your Officers are to re-
port to you faithfully and particularly, in Writing
under their Hands, declaring that they are ready
to make Oath to the Truth of the said Report,
when required: And what Assistance she wants, and
what Supplies she stands in need of, you are to
afford her to the utmost of your Power, in the
same Manner, and with the same Punctuality and
Care, as if she was not a hired Ship, but one
really belonging to his Majesty's Navy. More
especially, if she want any Carpenter's Work,
caulking or carcening, you are to order good and
speedy Assistance, and Materials of all Kinds you
can possibly spare, to have her timeously and
well fitted to attend the Army in any Expedition;

and to furnish her with all Stores she may want, and you can spare. Lastly, if any of her Complement of Officers or Seamen are wanting, either by Death, Desertion, or Sicknes, you are to supply her with good Men in their Stead, so that she may be enabled to proceed with Safety ; taking Care that the Master of said Ship be obliged to allow and pay them as high Wages as the Law intitles Seamen to in the Merchant Service ; as also that the said Master give obligatory Receipts for any Stores you may supply him with, which are to be transmitted to the Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy ; that the Value of said Stores may be stopt and deducted by them out of the said Ship's Freight. For all which, this shall be your Warrant. Given, &c.

*To all Commanders of his Majesty's
Ships of War in the West Indies,
and to whom it may concern.*

F I N I S.



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